

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2298

Introduced by Assembly Member Pescetti

February 24, 2000

An act to add Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 52360) to Chapter 9 of Part 28 of the Education Code, relating to vocational education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2298, as introduced, Pescetti. Vocational education.

Existing law authorizes a county superintendent of schools to establish and maintain a regional occupational center or regional occupational program to provide education and training in vocational courses.

This bill would require the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Industrial and Technological Education Advisory Board established by the bill, to adopt a curriculum for industrial and technological education on or before January 1, 2002. The bill would require every pupil graduating from high school on and after January 1, 2006, to have completed at least one year of instruction in a field listed in that curriculum, thereby imposing a state-mandated local program on school districts.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do

not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The Legislature finds and declares
2 all of the following:

3 (1) Industrial and technological education (ITE)
4 programs in our public high schools provide pupils with
5 the necessary skills to be competitive in today's dynamic
6 marketplace.

7 (2) The State Department of Education reports that
8 the vast majority of vocational education programs have
9 closed in the last 20 years.

10 (3) Only one-third of the "shop" programs in existence
11 20 years ago are still operational, and only 40 of 851 high
12 schools statewide have metals or manufacturing
13 programs.

14 (4) Eighty-three percent of high school graduates do
15 not graduate from a four-year college within six years.

16 (5) The majority programs for kindergarten and
17 grades 1 to 12, inclusive, focus on preparing pupils for
18 college even though most will not go on to graduate from
19 a postsecondary institution.

20 (6) The dropout rate of the state could not be reduced
21 by providing educational opportunities that open doors to
22 skilled career options.

23 (7) To be truly competitive and meet the state's
24 growing need for housing, infrastructure, and
25 transportation, our schools must focus on meeting the
26 needs of all pupils by placing a greater emphasis on career
27 preparation.

28 (8) There is a tremendous shortage of skilled,
29 entry-level workers in today's job market. According to



1 the United States Department of Labor, 240,000 new
2 construction workers are needed each year nationwide.

3 (9) Skilled positions in the construction and
4 automotive industries offer pay and benefits that are
5 exponentially better than those associated with
6 minimum-wage positions.

7 (10) The United States Department of Labor reports
8 that average earning of skilled journey-level workers is
9 better than that of workers with bachelor's degrees.

10 (11) Sixty percent of manufacturers report they have
11 more than five applicants for each vacant job, yet 80
12 percent of those applicants are not qualified to fill the
13 positions.

14 (12) Industrial and technological skills are in high
15 demand, and public schools should provide pupils with
16 the opportunity to develop these skills before they enter
17 the job market.

18 (b) Therefore, it is the intent of the Legislature to
19 reinvigorate vocational education and training programs
20 in our public schools.

21 SEC. 2. Article 3.5 (commencing with Section 52360)
22 is added to Chapter 9 of Part 28 of the Education Code,
23 to read:

24
25 Article 3.5. Vocational Curriculum
26

27 52360. The State Board of Education, in consultation
28 with the Industrial and Technological Education
29 Advisory Board established pursuant to Section 52362,
30 shall adopt a curriculum for industrial and technological
31 education on or before January 1, 2002.

32 52361. Every pupil graduating from high school on
33 and after January 1, 2006, shall have completed at least
34 one year of instruction in a field listed in the curriculum
35 adopted by the board pursuant to Section 52360, or
36 otherwise designated by the board.

37 52362. (a) There is hereby established an Industrial
38 and Technological Education Advisory Board to the State
39 Board of Education.

1 (b) The advisory board shall consist of nine members
2 appointed by the Governor, as follows:

3 (1) Two members representing the construction
4 industry.

5 (2) Two members representing the manufacturing
6 industry.

7 (3) Two members representing the automotive repair
8 industry.

9 (4) One member representing industry trade
10 associations.

11 (5) One member representing labor unions.

12 (6) One member representing an employer trade
13 association.

14 (c) The duties of the advisory board shall consist of all
15 of the following:

16 (1) Reporting annually to the state board and the
17 Legislature on the status of industrial and technological
18 education in California high schools in the state.

19 (2) Making recommendations to the state board on
20 revising and updating the curriculum for industrial and
21 technological education.

22 (3) Actively encouraging partnerships between school
23 and private sector companies to improve pupil access to
24 industrial and technological education.

25 SEC. 3. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the
26 Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates
27 determines that this act contains costs mandated by the
28 state, reimbursement to local agencies and school
29 districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7
30 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title
31 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the
32 claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million
33 dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from
34 the State Mandates Claims Fund.

